

2012 -- S 2540

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --
UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES -- CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT AND IDENTITY THEFT
PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: Senate Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 6-13-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 6-13 entitled "Unfair Sales
2 Practices" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **6-13-17. Requiring consumers to furnish social security numbers.** -- (a) Unless
4 otherwise required by federal law, no person shall require that a consumer of goods or services
5 disclose all or part of a social security number incident to the sale of consumer goods or services;
6 provided, however, that:

7 (1) Insurance companies and institutions licensed by the state or federal government for
8 financial services may require applicants for those services to disclose their social security
9 number;

10 (2) Social security numbers may be required for the providing and billing of health care
11 or pharmaceutical-related services, including the issuance of identification cards and account
12 numbers for users of health care or pharmaceutical-related services; and

13 (3) Disclosure may be required of a consumer as a condition of applying for a credit card
14 or the extension of credit for the purchase or rental of goods or services.

15 (b) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,
16 and upon conviction, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

17 (c) In any civil action alleging a violation of this section, the court may award damages,
18 reasonable attorney's fees, and costs to a prevailing consumer, and afford injunctive relief against

1 any person or business that commits or proposes to commit a violation of this section.

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --
UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES -- CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT AND IDENTITY THEFT
PREVENTION ACT

- 1 This act would add requests for the extension of credit and rentals to the instances where
- 2 social security numbers may be requested.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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